

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-07 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 OIC-02
SSM-03 /171 W

-----123621 060322Z /70

R 051430Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7999
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: GATT AND THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 69585, (B) GENEVA 4524

1. ISRAELI DEL HAS SUPPLIED US WITH A COPY OF POLITICAL ISLAMIC CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS THAT ISRAELI DEL HAS GIVEN TO THE GATT IN ITS EFFORT TO KEEP ISLAMIC CONFERENCE FROM OBTAINING OBSERVER STATUS TO THE GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES ANNUAL MEETING (COPY FOR EB/OT/TA HAND-CARRIED BY C. BLUM). RESOLUTIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS HELD AT ISTANBUL IN MAY 1976. RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS FULL SUPPORT FOR PLO EFFORT TO "RESTORE THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND CALL FOR "ENDING THE ZIONIST OCCUPATION" AND FOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. CONFERENCE CONTAINS SEVERAL OTHER "POLITICAL" RESOLUTIONS INCLUDING ONE CONDEMNING FRANCE FOR OCCUPATION OF MAYOTTE (COMORO ISLES) AND ONE CALLING ON THE PHILIPPINES TO HALT MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST FILIPINO MUSLIMS.

2. ISRAELI DEL WILL MEET WITH DG LONG APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS

MATTER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LONG WILL TRY TO DISCOURAGE ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO BLOCK OBSERVER STATUS FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SINCE LOBBYING EFFORT BY ISRAELIS IS LIKELY TO BRING ABOUT POLITICIZATION THEY SUPPOSEDLY SEEK TO AVOID. SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT ISRAELI DEL IS OVER-REACHING AND SAYS THAT, ALTHOUGH SECRETARIAT CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT CPS COULD KEEP ISLAMIC CONFERENCE FROM TRYING TO INTRODUCE POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS IN CP SESSION, CHAIRMAN OF CPS CAN, TO A LARGE EXTENT, CONTROL ACTIONS OF OBSERVERS. TRADITIONALLY OBSERVERS HAVE NOT MADE STATEMENTS AND ARE INVITED TO DO SO ONLY WHEN THE ISSUE UNDER CONSIDERATION DIRECTLY AFFECTS THEM.

3. COMMENT: ISRAELI TACTIC IS TO SEEK SUPPORT OF U.S. AND A FEW OTHER DELEGATIONS TO BLOCK OBSERVER STATUS OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. THEY REASON THAT, IF THEY CAN DO THIS THEY CAN SHOW THAT NO GATT CONSENSUS EXISTS TO ACCORD THE CONFERENCE OBSERVER STATUS. THEY ARE HOPEFUL, IF IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT A CONSENSUS CANNOT BE OBTAINED IN THE COUNCIL, THAT THE ISLAMIC STATES WILL REFRAIN FROM PLACING THE ISSUE ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA. TO DATE THE ISRAELIS HAVE LOBBIED ONLY THE GATT SECRETARIAT AND THE U.S. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH EC AND MAY APPROACH OTHER CPS SOON. END COMMENT.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE TIMELY WASHINGTON GUIDANCE (SEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REF B FOR U.S. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS). VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

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